The doctoral degree requires 72 hours beyond a bachelor’s degree, and may include as many as 24 hours credit from a prior master’s degree. Doctoral candidates must pass a qualifying exam during their first year in residence to assess their general background so that a meaningful program of study can be constructed. The usual doctoral program involves courses within and outside the department, and researching the dissertation topic prior to taking the comprehensive examination by the end of the second year. The results of the dissertation research are presented to the faculty and graduate students when the student has completed the project.

Admission Criteria

Fall deadline: none set, but January 31 for guaranteed consideration for departmental financial aid

- Minimum TOEFL scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet-based test (iBT)</th>
<th>Paper-based test (PBT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Minimum Academic IELTS scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Scores and GPA: Our quantitative assessment of applicants uses a combination of GPA for the last 60 hours and the student’s GRE verbal, quantitative and analytical writing scores. We have a formula that weights the GPA and total GRE scores equally. Applicants with a GPA less than 3.0 may be considered, but their acceptance would require very strong GRE scores or exceptional circumstances.

Required Application Materials

To the Office of Graduate Studies:

- All required Graduate Admissions documents. We require applicants to submit applications through our online system.

To the Geological Sciences Program:

- 3 letters of recommendation (submitted through the Graduate Studies’ online application system)
- Personal statement (uploaded into Graduate Studies application online)
- GRE scores

Financial Aid from the Program

Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details.